



# READING

## Middlesex County



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## NARRATIVE

### **Narrative**

The Town of Reading is a medium size community which lies at a transportation hub. With Interstate Route 93 along its western boundary and Interstate 95 along its southern and southeastern boundaries, not only Boston but the seashore, retail shopping malls and employment centers are easily accessible. This accessibility plus the New England character of the town make Reading an ideal residential area.

First settled in 1639, the town was incorporated in 1644. Under the guidance of a citizen volunteer committee, Reading is looking forward to celebrating its 350th anniversary in 1994. This committee is only one of many volunteer boards, committees and commissions that assist an elected board of selectmen and a representative town meeting in governing the town. The town manager is responsible for day-to-day operations of the local government.

(Narrative supplied by community)



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# GEOGRAPHY

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## Location

Eastern Massachusetts, bordered by North Reading on the north, Lynnfield and Wakefield on the east, Stoneham on the south, Woburn on the southwest and west, and Wilmington on the west. Reading is 12 miles north of Boston, 14 miles south of Lawrence, and 230 miles from New York City.

**Total Area:** 9.93 sq. miles

**Land Area:** 9.93 sq. miles

**Population:** 22,539

**Density:** 2,270 per sq. mile

## Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

### (Reading Station)

Normal temperature in January.....24.5°F

Normal temperature in July.....71.0°F

Normal annual precipitation.....46.6"

## U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Reading, Wilmington

## Regional Planning Agency

Metropolitan Area Planning Council

## Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Boston



# GOVERNMENT

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## Municipal Offices

Main Number: (781) 942-9001

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

## Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Town Manager

Representative Town Meeting

## Year Incorporated

As a town: 1644

## Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	13,911		
Democrats	4,488	32.3	%
Republicans	2,690	19.3	%
Other parties	6	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	6,727	48.4	%

## Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



# DEMOGRAPHICS

**Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000**

Geographic Area: Reading town, Middlesex County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	23,708	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	23,708	100.0
Male.....	11,496	48.2	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	200	0.8
Female.....	12,272	51.8	Mexican.....	44	0.2
Under 5 years.....	1,701	7.2	Puerto Rican.....	35	0.1
5 to 9 years.....	1,763	7.4	Cuban.....	15	0.1
10 to 14 years.....	1,828	7.7	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	106	0.4
15 to 19 years.....	1,313	5.5	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	23,508	99.2
20 to 24 years.....	890	3.5	White alone.....	22,721	95.8
25 to 34 years.....	2,671	11.3	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	4,393	18.5	Total population.....	23,708	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	3,678	15.5	In households.....	23,545	99.3
55 to 59 years.....	1,238	5.2	Householder.....	8,688	36.6
60 to 64 years.....	924	3.9	Spouse.....	5,517	23.3
65 to 74 years.....	1,752	7.4	Child.....	7,976	33.6
75 to 84 years.....	1,194	5.0	Own child under 18 years.....	5,988	25.3
85 years and over.....	423	1.8	Other relatives.....	784	3.3
Median age (years).....	39.1	(X)	Under 18 years.....	218	0.9
18 years and over.....	17,476	73.7	Nonrelatives.....	580	2.4
Male.....	8,197	34.6	Unmarried partner.....	223	0.9
Female.....	9,279	39.1	In group quarters.....	163	0.7
21 years and over.....	16,954	71.5	Institutionalized population.....	146	0.6
62 years and over.....	3,910	16.5	Noninstitutionalized population.....	17	0.1
65 years and over.....	3,369	14.2	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	1,399	5.6	Total households.....	8,688	100.0
Female.....	2,030	8.6	Family households (families).....	6,437	74.1
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	3,189	36.7
One race.....	23,553	99.3	Married-couple family.....	5,517	63.5
White.....	22,871	96.5	With own children under 18 years.....	2,815	32.4
Black or African American.....	86	0.4	Female householder, no husband present.....	723	8.3
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	15	0.1	With own children under 18 years.....	314	3.6
Asian.....	525	2.2	Nonfamily households.....	2,251	25.9
Asian Indian.....	126	0.5	Householder living alone.....	1,942	22.4
Chinese.....	208	0.9	Householder 65 years and over.....	856	9.9
Filipino.....	9	-	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	3,326	38.3
Japanese.....	42	0.2	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	2,326	26.8
Korean.....	75	0.3	Average household size.....	2.71	(X)
Vietnamese.....	20	0.1	Average family size.....	3.22	(X)
Other Asian <sup>1</sup> .....	45	0.2	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	6	-	Total housing units.....	8,823	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	2	-	Occupied housing units.....	8,688	98.5
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	135	1.5
Samoan.....	3	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander <sup>2</sup> .....	1	-	occasional use.....	12	0.1
Some other race.....	50	0.2	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.3	(X)
Two or more races.....	155	0.7	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	3.1	(X)
Race alone or in combination with one			HOUSING TENURE		
or more other races: <sup>3</sup>			Occupied housing units.....	8,688	100.0
White.....	23,012	97.1	Owner-occupied housing units.....	7,165	82.5
Black or African American.....	135	0.6	Renter-occupied housing units.....	1,523	17.5
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	54	0.2	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.90	(X)
Asian.....	585	2.5	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	1.79	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	8	-			
Some other race.....	79	0.3			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

<sup>2</sup> Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

<sup>3</sup> In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



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# HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

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**Home Sales** (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

**Subsidized Housing Units** (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

**Public Housing Units** (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State:	98
Conventional Federal:	0

**Rental Assistance**(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP:	2
Federal (Section 8):	107



# TRANSPORTATION

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## TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Reading is situated in the Greater Boston Area, which has excellent rail, air, and highway facilities. State Route 128 and Interstate Route 495 divide the region into inner and outer zones, which are connected by numerous "spokes" providing direct access to the airport, port, and intermodal facilities of Boston.

### Major Highways

Principal highways are State Routes 28, 128 (the inner belt around Boston), and 129, and Interstate Routes 93 and 95, which shares the same roadway with State Route 128.

### Rail

Commuter service to Boston's North Station is available from Reading Station. Travel time 28-31 minutes; 308 MBTA and Town parking spaces. Freight rail service is available from the Springfield Terminal Railway. Contact number: (508) 663-1073

### Bus

Reading is a member of the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority (MBTA), which provides fixed route service to Malden Station via Wakefield, Melrose and Oak Grove. The Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority provides service from Reading Depo to Haverhill, Bradford, Lawrence and Andover.

### Other

L.G. Hanscom Field, a joint civil-military airport, is located in Bedford. A Reliever Airport with commercial service (CR), it has a 5,106' asphalt runway and a 7,001' concrete and asphalt runway. Instrument approaches available: Precision and non-precision. Logan International Airport is located 16 miles from Reading, via I-93.



# CULTURE AND RECREATION

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## LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

## MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

Parker Tavern  
103 Washington Street  
(781) 944-2957

## RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

**Recreational Facilities** (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



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# MISCELLANEOUS

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## HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

### Hospitals

None

### Long Term Care

Daniels House Nursing Home

Wingate At Reading Reh & Snr

### Hospices

None

### Rest Homes

None

### UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.